

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 RSR-01 /150 W

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3481

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T CAIRO 2245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: SADAT JULY 26 SPEECH

1. IN MAJOR SPEECH AT ALEXANDRIA UNIVIERSITY ON JULY 26,
SADAT PREDICTABLY ATTACKED UNITED STATES FOR CASTING
VETO AT UNSC MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS BEFORE
SPEECH BEGAN. WHILE SPEECH REVEALED EGYPTIAN BITTERNESS OVER
CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, IT WAS COUCHED IN
RELATIVELY MODERATE LANGUAGE. SADAT EMPHASIZED THEME OF
INTERNAL MOBILIZATION FOR LONG STRUGGLE AHEAD AND MADE
HISTORIC ALLUSIONS TO PREVIOUS INVASIONS OF MIDDLE EAST
BY TARTARS AND CRUSADERS. HE EMPHASIZED NECESSITY FOR
"IDEOLOGICAL STEADFASTNESS" ON PART OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE
AND MADE NO PROMISES FOR A QUICK SOLUTION. WHILE
EMPHASIZING THAT EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES ARE IMPROVING

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DAY BY DAY, SADAT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD BE SOME

TIME BEFORE BATTLE ACTUALLY BEGAN.

2. IN MOCKING REFERENCE TO SOVIET UNION, SADAT SAID HE PRESENTED TO USSR AS A GIFT THE US VETO AND ALL ITS IMPLICATIONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO RECOVER ITS TERRITORY HAD BEEN STOPPED BY A BLOCKADE CARRIED OUT BY EGYPT'S ENEMIES AS WELL AS BY ITS FRIENDS. HE SAID WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE EGYPTIAN RIGHTS, BUT ARE ANXIOUS TO PLEASE AMERICA OR ISRAEL OR ELSE ARE AFRAID TO CAUSE THEMSELVES TROUBLE.

3. IN ADDRESSING THE UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE, SADAT MADE UNFLATTERING, IF REALISTIC, ASSERTION THAT EGYPTIAN EDUCATION IS LAGGING BEHIND AND GREATER EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO PREPARE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOR "THE AGE OF THE ATOM."

4. SADAT WAS AS FIRM AS EVER IN REJECTING SUGGESTIONS THAT EGYPT NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL ON ISRAEL'S TERMS. HE CALLED ISRAEL'S OFFER TO NEGOTIATE WHILE HOLDING EGYPTIAN LAND AND INSISTING ON SOME ANNEXATION AS A "CHEATING OPERATION AND PART AND PARCEL OF THE SIEGE."

5. COMMENT: CALM TONE OF SADAT SPEECH MAY REFLECT HIS SATISFACTION AT SUCCESS OF EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO ISOLATE US AND ISRAEL FROM OTHER NATIONS AT SECURITY COUNCIL. FACT THAT HE IS NO LONGER MAKING UNREALISTIC PROMISES AND SETTING UNREALISTIC DEADLINES PROBABLY REFLECTS AN INCREASING FEELING OF STRENGTH IN HIS INTERNAL POSITION. HE APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT SETTLING DOWN FOR LONGER-RANGE MOBILIZATION EFFORT, AND WE CONCLUDE THAT HE IS AS FAR AS EVER FROM DECISION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL ON ISRAEL'S TERMS. SPEECH GAVE LITTLE INDICATION OF EFFECT OF VETO ON US-EGYPTIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THIS SHOULD EMERGE IN COMING WEEKS.

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